



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Design, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng

Design, Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2013-05-14

Revised 2013-06-12 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2013

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:

- a minimum of 90 credits in Design (including a degree project/independent project comprising at

least 15 credits) or the equivalent

- approved portfolio as well as a project description
- English B/6 or the equivalent

Description of Programme

The Design Master Programme is a two-year artistic education at the second level within Design, the main field of study. The aim of the programme is to make students well qualified for work in the field of design. During the education the students create knowledge about configuring articulated design proposals at a high artistic level, including deepened knowledge about approaches and methods, which will make them well equipped to work in design processes of different types.

One important element is developing the theoretical knowledge about design analysis and reflection in relation to human beings and society. Another important part of the education is student participation in major complex design projects involving several special interest groups.

Objectives

Qualitative targets

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts students are expected to

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the main field of the education, including a broad knowledge within the field as well as considerably deepened knowledge within parts of the field and a deepened insight into current research and development work, and to

- demonstrate familiarity with methods and processes for handling complex phenomena, issues and situations within the field.

Ability and Skills

For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts students are expected to

- demonstrate the ability to independently and creatively formulate new questions and contribute to cognitive development, solve advanced problems, develop new and individual ways of expressing themselves as well as critically reflecting on their own and other people's artistic approach within the main field of the programme,
- demonstrate the ability to use a developed individual expression to create and realize their own artistic ideas, independently identify, formulate and solve artistic and configurative problems as well as using adequate methods to plan and implement qualified artistic tasks within given frameworks,
- demonstrate the ability in national and international contexts, to present and discuss in speech, writing or otherwise, their work and artistic issues in dialogue with different groups, and to
- demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to work independently and professionally.

Evaluation and Attitude

For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts students are expected to

- demonstrate the ability within the main field of the education to make assessments, taking artistic, societal and ethical aspects into consideration,
- show an insight into the role of art in society, and to
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for their cognitive development.

Programme specific qualitative targets

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts students are expected to

- demonstrate a deepened knowledge of current research and development work within the field of design, and to
- demonstrate familiarity with theories, methods, techniques and processes for handling complex phenomena, issues and contexts within the field of design.

Ability and Skills

For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts students are expected to

- demonstrate the ability to create articulated proposals that are relevant to the task and thereby independently identifying, formulating and solving design and configurative problems as well as using adequate methods to plan and implement qualified design tasks within given timeframes.

Evaluation and Attitude

For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts students are expected to

- show a deepened insight into the opportunities of design in society.

Content

Organization

The programme has a coordinator with overarching responsibility for the cohesion and coordination of the programme, for continuous quality development work and for course

and programme development.

A programme advisory council consisting of representatives of students and teachers is linked to the programme. The council meets 2-3 times per semester to work with issues concerning quality and programme development.

The course coordinator is responsible for carrying out a course evaluation at the end of the course and for giving feedback of the evaluation result to the student group.

Programme Overview

The programme is largely structured as follows:

The first semester focuses on further developing a critical and analytical attitude.

Students develop their ability to reflect, understand and articulate prevalent conditions.

Students acquire knowledge and experience primarily by working with extant conditions and artefacts.

During the second semester the focus is on creating and articulating design proposals and reflecting on these. This is where students acquire advanced knowledge and experience of different methods by working with different standpoints, approaches and contexts in their work.

The third semester involves making various design proposals for products or services, focusing on holistics and complexity.

During the fourth and last semester students conduct an independent design project and a reflective academic essay. This project may be conducted together with a company or individually. This is where students acquire a deepened knowledge within a specific part of the field of design.

Throughout the programme a series of seminars take place, where current and other important aspects related to design are discussed.

Courses included in the programme

Year 1

Material culture and practices, 7.5 credits, Design, A1N.

Philosophy of Science with emphasis on Design, 7.5 credits, Design/Philosophy, A1N.

Methods for exploration, 7.5 credits, Design, A1N.

Articulation, 4.5 credits, Design, A1N.

Seminar series I, 3 credits, Design, A1N.

Human centered design, processes, methodology, 7.5 credits, Design, A1F.

Design, advanced study I, 7.5 credits, Design, A1F.

Design, advanced study II, 7.5 credits, Design, A1F.

Design theory, advanced study, 4.5 credits, Design, A1F.

Seminar series II, 3 credits, Design, A1N.

Year 2

Co-operative design work, methodology, deepened studies, 7.5 credits, Design, A1F.

Design in practice, advanced study I, 7.5 credits, Design, A1F.

Design advanced study I, 7.5 credits, Design A1F.

Design Work, Advanced Studies, Project, 12 credits, A1F.

Seminar series III, 3 credits, Design, A1F.

Design, Degree Project (Master), 30 credits, A2E.

The order between courses within the programme may change.

All courses form part of Design, the main field of study.

Work Experience and community contacts

Through lectures by professionals, active in the design field, by study visits and workshops students have the opportunity to get in touch with communities and practical work. The independent project, as well as other projects, may be conducted together with a company or organization.

Scope of Programme

Equal opportunity, gender, gender-crossing identity or expression, ethnic affiliation, religion or other beliefs, sexual preference, age and other aspects play a dual role in the programme. First, a core concept is that all students have the same value and work on the same basic conditions and, secondly, since equal opportunity is a matter of justice, the work focuses on factors and qualities that may put an individual in a disadvantageous position vis-à-vis the collective.

As design work constitutes an important driving force in society, it is our objective that the starting point for students in their design processes is the participation, knowledge and understanding of human beings, in combination with the ability to critically examine opportunities and limitations, with the aim to create artefacts supporting an equal and sustainable society.

To be able to carry out design work at an advanced level it is necessary to keep up to date and obtain knowledge about international design fields, which is achieved both by project work, theoretical studies and during the seminar series. The international perspective is reinforced by students from several other countries participating in the programme.

Quality Development

Course evaluations form part of the basis of the continuous evaluation and improvement of the programme. Students also contribute actively to developing the programme via the advisory council. In addition to evaluations of the separate courses, a programme evaluation is conducted towards the end of the studies. To the benefit of the quality development work students receive feedback on the results of the course and programme evaluations.

Degree Certificate

After completing the studies included in the programme and fulfilling the requirements stated in the degree ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance as well as in the local degree ordinance of Linnaeus University, students may apply for a degree. Those who have completed the 120-credit Design Master programme may be awarded the following degree:

Master of Fine Arts (120 credits)
(Main field of study: Design)

The degree certificate is issued in two languages, Swedish and English. A Diploma Supplement in English is enclosed with the degree certificate.

Other Information

To facilitate and make visible students' individual development, the workbook method or the equivalent is used as a pedagogical tool throughout the programme. The method focuses on reflection in the learning process, which means that students continuously formulate and implement their own deepening and progression with the support of the supervisors. Five different key aspects are used: production, perception, reflection, work method and complexity.

Students have to be prepared to defray costs for materials and study trips.