



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Masterprogrammet i Design+Change, 120 högskolepoäng

Master Programme in Design+Change, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2017-09-11

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at the second level and specific entry requirements:

- 90 credits in the main field of study, Design (including an independent project of at least 15 credits) or the equivalent,
- Approved portfolio and letter of intent.
- English B/6 or the equivalent.

Description of Programme

The Master Programme in Design+Change is a two-year artistic programme at the second level within the main field of study Design. The aim of the programme is to make students highly qualified for work in the field of design, with a focus on sustainability and design as a change agent. During the programme students develop skills in creating artistically articulated design proposals at a high artistic level and in-depth knowledge of approaches and methods, which will make them well-equipped to work with different kinds of design projects.

One important element concerns the development of artistic skills and theoretical knowledge required for the analysis and reflection of design in relation to sustainability. Another important part of the programme is student participation in major, complex design projects involving several different interest groups.

Objectives

Central qualitative targets according to the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in areas of the field as well as specialised insight into current research and development within the field.

- and development work, and
- demonstrate familiarity with methods and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and situations in the field.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to formulate new issues autonomously and creatively and contribute to the formation of knowledge, solve more advanced problems, develop new forms of personal expression as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the main field of study,
- demonstrate the ability to create and execute his or her own ideas with his or her own personal expression, to identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems autonomously and also to plan and undertake advanced artistic tasks using appropriate methods within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability both nationally and internationally to clearly present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues,
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Programme-specific objectives

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the degree, the student should:

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of current artistic research and developments within the field of design, focusing on emerging design disciplines, sustainability and design as a change agent,
- demonstrate familiarity with theories, methods, techniques and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and contexts within the field of design, with a focus on sustainability,
- demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of sustainability as a concept, including ecological as well as economic, cultural, societal and political structures and systems.

Competence and skills

After completing the degree, the student should:

- demonstrate the ability to create artistically articulated proposals relevant to a specific societal challenge and to interested parties,
- independently identify, formulate and solve design challenges and use appropriate methods to plan and implement advanced design tasks within given time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to work in projects in frameworks relevant to design, in collaboration with partners from several social sectors and with a focus on sustainability and design as a change agent.

Judgement and approach

After completing the degree, the student should:

- demonstrate advanced insight into the opportunities of design as a means to change society.

Content

The programme has a coordinator who, in dialogue with the management at the department, has the overall responsibility for the cohesion and coordination of the programme, for continuous quality development and for course and programme development. The programme has a programme advisory board consisting of student and teacher representatives. The board meets twice or three times each 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 each course and for giving feedback as regards the results of the evaluation to the student group.

Programme Overview

The programme is given in English in order to welcome international students and to provide the students with access to future international employment opportunities.

The programme is largely structured as follows:

First semester

In the first semester, the students focus on developing their artistic skills and their critical and analytical approach. The semester focuses on sustainability as a complex of ecological, economic, societal, cultural and political aspects. Through artistic methods and processes for exploration as well as artistic articulation and design processes, the students develop their ability to understand, articulate and reflect on current conditions.

Second semester

In the second semester, the students practise creating, developing and articulating design proposals focusing on emerging design disciplines in relation to norms, norm criticism and norm creativity, as well as contextualising and critically evaluating these. The students acquire advanced knowledge and experience of different methods by working with different perspectives, approaches and contexts.

Third semester

In the third semester, the students conduct design processes focusing on agency for change, emerging design disciplines and research. The students are introduced to transdisciplinary design, metadesign and contemporary design research. This semester focuses on research and the students are provided with a basis for future work as design researchers.

Fourth semester

The fourth and last semester in the programme consists of an independent degree project in the form of a design project and a report in which the students contextualise and critically evaluate their projects. The project may be conducted in co-operation with an organisation, a company or other interest groups, or individually. Throughout the course, the students acquire in-depth knowledge within a specific part of the field of design.

Courses in the programme

Year 1 Semester 1

Design Processes and the Complexity of Sustainability: Sustainability and Methods for Exploration, 7.5 credits, A1N*

The students are introduced to and develop methods, processes and practices for exploration, as well as artistic expressions in relation to sustainability with a focus on materials and economic and ecological perspectives.

Design Processes and the Complexity of Sustainability: Sustainability and Design Theory, 7.5 credits, A1N.

The students are introduced to and explore sustainability as a complex concept including ecological as well as societal, political, economic and cultural dimensions. The importance of inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives on sustainability is emphasised.

Design Processes and the Complexity of Sustainability: Sustainability & Artistic Articulation, 7.5 credits, A1N.*

The students explore the complexity of sustainability through artistic exercises, using various materials and techniques.

Design Processes and the Complexity of Sustainability: Sustainability and Design, 7.5 credits, A1N.*

The students develop their own design processes on the complexity of sustainability, focusing on how the different aspects of sustainability interact.

Year 1 Semester 2

Emerging Design Disciplines and Norm Creativity: Design Theory, 7.5 credits, A1F.

The students are introduced to norms, norm criticism and norm creativity by applying transdisciplinary methods for exploration.

Emerging Design Disciplines and Norm Creativity: Speculative Design, 7.5 credits, A1F*

The students are introduced to speculative design and develop speculative design projects on norms and norm criticism.

Emerging Design Disciplines and Norm Creativity: Social Design, 7.5 credits, A1F*

The students are introduced to social design and develop social design projects on norms and norm creativity.

Emerging Design Disciplines and Norm Creativity: Staging, 7.5 credits, A1F*

From the perspective of norm criticism and norm creativity, the students explore various kinds of staging design, such as exhibition practices, experience design, design interactions, and performance.

Year 2 Semester 1

Design and Change: Metadesign, 12 credits, A1F*

The students are introduced to metadesign and develop processes in metadesign focusing on sustainability and design as a change agent.

Design and Change: Transdisciplinary Design, 12 credits, A1F.

The students are introduced to transdisciplinary design and develop transdisciplinary design projects focusing on sustainability and design as a change agent.

Design and Change: Design Research, 6 credits, A1F*

The students are introduced to contemporary design research and develop design research proposals focusing on sustainability and design as a change agent. Or studies abroad in Design, level of progression: A1F.

Year 2 Semester 2

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

The student independently conducts an entire design process in a project focusing on sustainability and design as a change agent.

*= course within the main field of study

The courses in the programme may be offered in a different order.

Societal relevance

The students are provided with opportunities to work with and influence society, through lectures by professionals in the field of design as well as other fields and disciplines, and through study visits and transdisciplinary workshops with associations, organisations and companies.

Internationalisation

The Department of Design participates actively in international networks such as Cumulus and Desis, which provide platforms for knowledge exchange through joint projects and student and teaching staff exchanges.

During the third semester, students have the opportunity to study abroad, after consultation with the programme coordinator. Students have the opportunity to study abroad at any of the universities with which Linnaeus University has agreements.

Programme perspectives

Broad perspectives concerning equality, gender, cross-gender identities or expressions, ethnicity, religion or other views of life, disabilities, sexuality and age are fundamental in two ways in this programme. First, it is central that all students have equal value and work on the basis of the same conditions. Second, the programme focuses on equality as a matter of justice and the factors and circumstances that can put an individual at a disadvantage in relation to the collective.

As design work constitutes an important driving force in society, the objective of the programme is that the students base their design processes on human participation, knowledge and understanding, in combination with the ability to critically examine opportunities and limitations, with the aim to create design supporting an equal and sustainable society.

To be able to practise design at an advanced level, it is necessary to keep up to date and obtain knowledge about international design fields, which is achieved both through project work and theoretical studies. Furthermore, the international perspective is strengthened as students from other countries participate in the programme. The integration and examination of these perspectives in the programme are specified in the syllabus for each course.

Quality Development

A member of the management at the Department of Design is responsible for the quality assurance of all programmes at the department. Alongside the subject and programme coordinators, this person has the overall responsibility for the cohesion and coordination of the programme, for continuous quality development, and for course and programme development.

Quality assurance and development are clearly connected to the university's vision and strategy, and to the programme and course syllabi.

Quality assurance and development within the subject take the form of teaching staff conferences and subject meetings, as well as continuous dialogues with the students, formalised in course evaluations. Programme evaluations carried out during the fourth semester and course evaluations conducted after each course are compiled into reports made available to the students alongside descriptions of what measures of improvement have been taken. The programme and course evaluations are archived by the department.

Students, teaching staff and representatives from the surrounding society participate actively in following up and developing the programme through a Programme Advisory Board. The programme is continuously developed to meet the requirements of society.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality system for the follow-up and development of our programmes. An education council prepares programme syllabi and other aspects concerning quality, such as the right to award degrees and the range of programmes offered, before the Faculty Board makes the final decisions. Revised and new syllabi are prepared in Syllabus Committees before the Head of Department or the Dean makes the final decision about approval.

Every year the range of courses and programmes offered is evaluated in accordance with the Faculty's plan for systematic quality work.

Degree Certificate

After completing their studies, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance in the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local Qualification Ordinance, the student may apply for a degree.

Students who have completed the Master Programme in Design+Change can obtain the following degree:

Konstnärlig masterexamen (Huvudområde: Design)
Master of Fine Arts (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

Any costs for material and study trips are paid by the student.

