

A...kademie der bildenden Künste Wien

Curriculum Master in Critical Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

§1 Legal basis

(1) The study program Master in Critical Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna was implemented pursuant to Section 54 Subsections 1 and 2, Universities Act 2002. It combines studies of humanities and cultural sciences with art.

(2) In order to justify the legitimacy of the study profile, reference is made to the educational goals and educational tasks of the universities (guiding principles and tasks) as well as to the analogously fundamental equivalence of artistic and scientific studies and the desideratum of their interconnection, which finds its substantive equivalent in Sections 2(2) and 3(3) Universities Act 2002.

(3) Pursuant to Section 54 Subsection 1, Universities Act 2002, the program Master in Critical Studies is assigned to humanities and cultural studies.

(4) The resolution on this curriculum was passed at the meeting of the Senate on May 4, 2021.

§2 Qualification profile

(1) The graduate Master's Program Critical Studies combines artistic and theoretical studies. Theoretical and scientific topics, methods, questions and knowledge complexes are deepened and expanded and taught in direct connection with artistic practice. On the one hand, this results in expanded questions and teaching methods that are more focused with regard to the study goals (Section 2 Subsection 2 Universities Act 2002), and on the other hand, it creates a certain content-related architecture of the study program. This is intended to bring together heterogeneous areas from the complex of Critical Studies. The program is interdisciplinary in two senses: it combines academic and artistic methods and content, and it connects knowledge and methods from different disciplines within the humanities and the artistic subjects with regard to the acquisition of critical methods and forms of knowledge, and those forms of knowledge that stand in the tradition of critical positions in art and science. In addition to the deepening of academic and expert knowledge, methods are taught and developed that enable both the artistic-scholarly study PhD in Practice and the doctoral studies in the humanities and cultural studies.

(2) The Master in Critical Studies program has three main educational objectives. It

- provides students with knowledge that enables them to intervene critically in relation to contemporary discourse in art and architectural theory, and art and cultural studies. Graduates will be able to participate in institutional art studies, in journalistic art criticism as well as in curatorial and mediation-related discussions.

- enables students to continue their studies in a specialized arts or humanities department.
 - prepares students for doctoral studies in the humanities and cultural studies or the artistic-scientific PhD in Practice. Especially for the latter, there is a desideratum throughout Europe.
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§3 Scope, duration and structure of the study program

(1) The Master in Critical Studies program is designed to last 5 semesters with a total of 150 ECTS credits.

(2) The Master in Critical Studies program includes the development and realization of a scientific-artistic thesis (Master Project) as well as the completion of the modules listed under § 4.

(3) The Master's examination consists of the Master Project and its presentation. The Master Project has a theoretical-scientific main part (master thesis, 35 ECTS). This is subject to the standards of a humanities and cultural studies Master's thesis in dealing with sources and material. In addition, the Master Project contains an artistic part (30 ECTS), which expands the scientific part in a meaningful way. The Master Project has a scope of 65 ECTS credits.

(4) The Master in Critical Studies program is divided into the following modules:

1. Art Practice: 15 ECTS credits (3 x 5 ECTS credits)
2. Project: 20 ECTS credits (2 x 10 ECTS credits)
3. Critical Theories: 15 ECTS credits (3 x 5 ECTS credits)
4. Case Studies: 10 ECTS credits (2 x 5 ECTS credits)
5. Methods: 15 ECTS credits (3 x 5 ECTS credits)
6. Free Electives: 10 ECTS credits

Explanation of the structure of the study program:

1. In Module I "Art Practice (Kunstpraxis)", the students' artistic projects are supervised and discussed both with regard to the artistic-scholarly character of the Master Program and with regard to their artistic independence and quality. The courses in this module are completed within the framework of the central artistic subject or in courses taught by teachers who have habilitated in an artistic subject from the range of courses offered by the Institute of Fine Arts. Students acquire 5 ECTS credits per semester. Only one course from the art practice can be taken per semester; it must be taken a total of three times. The form of instruction in the Art Practice is Individual Artistic Instruction (KE).

2. Module II "Project (Projekt)" includes thematically determined, artistic-scholarly and mediating projects that are developed within a thematically specified framework. In addition to the realization of projects, this module deals with the learning of scholarly researching, the development of project topics, and the cooperation with external persons and institutions. For such projects, theoretical-scholarly research is to be developed and deepened independently and with the inclusion of both classical and experimental methods. The students acquire 10 ECTS credits for each. The project course must be done two times. It is taught as a cooperation of artistic and scientific teachers and comprises 4 SWS (hours per week and semester) (2 units per teacher). The form of teaching is that of Project Teaching (PT), mixing elements of Seminar (SE) and Individual Artistic Instruction (KE).

3. Module III "Critical Theories (Kritische Theorien)" consists of seminars of 5 ECTS credits (2 units) each, which students choose from the courses offered by the Institute of Art and Cultural Studies, the Institute of Art and Architecture, and the Institute for Education in the Arts. The following seminars are available for this purpose:

- a) Kunst der Gegenwart (Contemporary Art) III
- b) Gender Studies III
- c) Kunst der Moderne (Modern Art) III
- d) Medientheorie (Media Theory) III
- e) Morphologie des Raums (Morphology of Space) III
- f) Ästhetik und Kunstsoziologie (Aesthetics and Sociology of Art) III
- g) Postcolonial Studies III
- h) Philosophie und ästhetische Theorien (Philosophy and Aesthetic Theories) III
- i) Kunstgeschichte (History of Art) V
- j) Medientheorie (Media Theory) II
- k) Analyse von Ausstellungen, Projekten und Institutionen (Analysis of Exhibitions, Projects, and Institutions)
- l) Kommunikationstechnologien und Displays (Communication Technologies and Displays)
- m) Städte, Wachstum, Politik und Macht (Cities, Growth, Politics. and Power)
- n) Zeitgenössische Diskurse der Architekturtheorie (Contemporary Discourse in Architectural Theory)
- o) Kunstinstitutionen und Institutionskritik (Art Institutions and Institutional Critique) (KB 10.4)
- p) Ausstellen und Display (Exhibition and Display) (GK 9.3.5)
- q) Räume und Architekturen (Spaces and Architectures) (GK 9.3.4)
- r) Technik und Arbeit (Technology and Art) (GK 9.3.1)
- s) Moden und Styles (Fashions and Styles) (GK 9.3.2)
- t) Werkanalyse (Works Analysis) (KB 10.4)

The form of teaching is that of the Seminar (SE).

4. in Module IV "Case Studies", experts (from the arts, from technical, legal and journalistic practice and the humanities) and – preferably located at the edges of their disciplines – practitioners will offer their respective workshop in the form of a seminar (SE) based on the respective activity (2 SWS/units per week). Here, 5 ECTS credits are to be acquired in each case. The Case Studies must be taken twice in total.

5. In Module V "Methods (Methoden)", the colloquium (Kolloquium) (SE) focuses on learning transdisciplinary methods. In the process, artistic-scholarly procedures are to be collectively reflected upon and processed with regard to one's own work. The colloquium offers co-mentoring between students and teachers, in exchange with experts from the field of artistic-scientific practice. Students take the colloquium three times in this module, each time for 5 ECTS credits and 4 SWS.

6. In Module VI “Free Electives (Freies Wahlfach)”, students can take any course as a free elective in the amount of 2 SWS from the range of courses offered by the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna or by a domestic or foreign institution, pursuant to Sections 78 and 51 Subsection 2(1), Universities Act 2002.

(6) Overview:

MODULE I	MODULE II	MODULE III	MODULE IV	MODULE V	MODULE VI
Art Practice (Kunstpraxis)	Project (Projekt)	Critical Theories (Kritische Theorien)	Case Studies (Case Studies)	Methods (Methoden)	Free Electives (Freies Wahlfach)
3x5ECTS	2x10ECTS	3x5ECTS	2x5ECTS	3x5ECTS	
Art Practice	Project	Critical Theories	Case Study	Colloquium	
Art Practice	Project	Critical Theories	Case Study	Colloquium	
Art Practice		Critical Theories		Colloquium	
5 ECTS 5 SWS	10 ECTS 4 SWS	5 ECTS 2 SWS	5 ECTS 2 SWS	5 ECTS 4 SWS	
15 ECTS	20 ECTS	15 ECTS	10 ECTS	15 ECTS	10 ECTS

Total: 85 ECTS

Modules I to VI	85 ECTS
Scientific part of the Master Project (Master Thesis)	35 ECTS
Artistic part of the Master Project including its presentation	30 ECTS
Total	150 ECTS

Types of courses

1. Seminars (SE) serve the in-depth artistic-scholarly examination of a subarea of the subject. Participants are required to make independent contributions. Seminars are courses with an immanent examination character and can include a final examination.

2. Projects (PT) are held jointly by artistic and academic teachers. They should focus on scientific-scholarly results and they have an interdisciplinary character.

3. In courses marked KE, teaching content is taught individually. In this form of teaching, students' independent artistic works are supervised, and artistic projects accompanied. Courses that are held in the form of individual artistic instruction have an immanent examination character.

(8) The Master Project is to be supervised jointly by an artistic and a scholarly teacher. The students should work independently on the Master Project for one semester. Pursuant to Section 51 Subsection 2(8), Universities Act 2002, the Master Project is to be supervised jointly by an artistic and a scientific teacher. The students should work independently on the master project for one semester. The Master Thesis (= the academic part of the Master Project) serves as proof of the student's ability to work on academic and scholarly topics independently and in a contentually and methodologically justifiable manner. The additional artistic part is intended to provide evidence of the student's ability to articulate a connection to the scholarly and academic processed questions in artistic forms of expression or to establish a relationship of critical tension to the scientific part.

(9) Courses are held in German and in English.

(10) Replacement or substitution of ECTS credits due to activities in the Austrian Students' Union (ÖH) pursuant to Section 31 (3) HSG: Times as a student representative can replace the ECTS credits provided for in this curriculum for any course once from each of the Modules I, III, IV, V (up to 5 ECTS each) and II, VI (up to 10 ECTS each). The ECTS credits of two or more semesters of activity as a student representative can be accumulated and substitute one or more courses with corresponding ECTS credits.

§ 4 Admission requirements and application documents

(1) Admission requirement for the Master in Critical Studies program is a relevant degree (at least BA level).

(2) In addition, the following qualitative admission requirements (Pursuant to Section 64 Subsection 5, Universities Act 2002) must be met and must be demonstrated to the Admissions Review Committee during an admissions review prior to the start of the semester.

1. Ability to relate knowledge of the humanities and cultural studies and knowledge of methods to artistic thinking and artistic problems.

2. Sufficient knowledge of both German and English (see § 3 (9))

(3) The following documents must be submitted for the application to the Master in Critical Studies program. The submission in German or English can be made digitally, by mail (date of receipt), by e-mail, or personally:

1. filled-out application form

2. resumé (curriculum vitae)

3. a written assignment that theoretically outlines a possible plan for the Master Project

4. documentation, or samples of work, of previous artistic and/or scholarly practice

§ 5 Examination regulations

(1) The admission examination is conducted once a year by a commission and serves to prove that the qualitative admission requirements have been met. It is divided into the following parts:

1. Transmission of the completed application documents pursuant to § 4(3).
2. Examination of the applications received by the commission with regard to the fulfillment of the qualitative conditions for admission.
3. Verification of their fulfillment of all qualitative admission requirements in a personal interview of the applicants with the commission.

(2) The positive completion of all prescribed courses according to § 3(5) qualifies students for admission to the final Master's examination.

(3) The Master's examination consists of the academic part of the Master Project (= the Master Thesis) as well as the artistic part of the Master Project and its presentation. The Master Thesis is to be assessed by the academic supervisor. The artistic part and the presentation are assessed by a commission. This commission consists of three teachers, i.e. the academic supervisor, an artistic supervisor, and a person nominated by the student.

(4) With the positive completion of the Master's examination, the candidate acquires the degree of Master in Critical Studies (M.A.).

§ 6 Entry into force and transitional provisions

(1) This curriculum will – after its announcement in the gazette of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna – enter into force on October 1, 2021. §3 (10) Substitution of ECTS credits due to activities according to Section 31 (3) HSG comes into effect retroactively as of October 1, 2020.

(2) Students who started the Master in Critical Studies program before this curriculum came into effect may voluntarily submit to the provisions of this curriculum at any time by means of a simple declaration. The Curriculum Commission for the Master in Critical Studies program shall determine in general or in individual cases which of the courses and examinations already completed are to be recognized for this curriculum.

(3) Students who were subject to a curriculum in effect prior to this curriculum at the time of its enactment are eligible to complete their studies until Jan. 31, 2026, at the latest.

(4) All examinations taken in this study program prior to the academic year 2021/22 are to be credited for the modified curriculum; more detailed provisions in this regard are to be set forth in the Recognition Ordinance.