

**KUNSTAKADEMIE  
MÜNSTER**  
HOCHSCHULE FÜR BILDENDE KÜNSTE  
UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS MÜNSTER



**THE UNIVERSITY  
PROGRAMMES  
APPLY**

# ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS

The University of Fine Arts Münster is an institution of higher education for fine arts with the right to award doctorates and postdoctoral qualifications (“Habilitation”). Future artists and art educators of all semesters study and work together in the same classes covering such diverse fields as painting, sculpture, installation, performance, photography, film, and new media. Academic study of art history, criticism, theory and didactics completes the programme. The principle of studio work and study across all semesters under the guidance of an artist-professor goes back to the established form of art education in traditional art academies and is fundamentally different from academic course and module systems.

Founded in Münster in 1971 as the Institute for Art Educators at the Academy of Arts Düsseldorf, the University of Fine Arts became independent in 1987 and moved to Leonardo Campus in 2001. With its artistic and academic professorships and its state-of-the-art workshops, the university offers excellent conditions for studying art in a city whose close connections with contemporary art through its internationally renowned Skulptur Projekte, the regional LWL Museum for Art and Culture, the Westfälische Kunstverein and the Kunsthalle Münster are of long standing.

## PRACTICE-RELATED EDUCATION

For the programmes of both the prospective artists and art educators we put particular emphasis on a practice-oriented education, which will provide the students with the best possible preparation for their future fields of work.

The great number of class exhibitions, excursions, curatorial projects, colloquies, workshops, and academic conferences with international speakers attest to this close connection of theory and practice, which is a distinctive feature of studying at the University of Fine Arts. Another important element in our hands-on education are the excellently equipped workshops. Supervised by our experienced artistic-technical

staff, students are encouraged to perfect the technical skills needed to realise their artwork. For master students in teacher training, we offer an intensive and individually tailored practical semester, in which hands-on teaching experience, artistic experience, and theoretical reflection are closely entwined.

**Leonardo-Campus. In the middle, the academy's main building, framed by the old complex which houses workshops, studios, and the library.**



## ART & PUBLIC

The University's mission to keep art production constantly in touch with the public is manifested in particular in the great number of class exhibitions and projects that are being organised across Germany and abroad. The annual highlight is the so-called "Rundgang", the round tour through the academy, in which a cross-section of the students' work is presented to the general public. Additionally, there are a number of public events, with which the University actively contributes to art education in the region. The exam exhibitions during the term are, for instance, open to the public. The "Münster Lectures" – a public series of lectures by international players of the art scene – provide both students and guests with valuable insights into the practices of art. Finally, there is the University's "showroom", the Wewerka Pavillon, run by both the Academy and the Kulturamt of Münster, in which students' work is regularly exhibited.

## INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

Since its independence, the University of Fine Arts Münster has become a place with international flair: the ever-increasing number of international professors and a great proportion of international students attest to this fact. The University participates in the European ERASMUS programme, which is designed to help students to study abroad by providing grants and waiving tuition fees. Above and beyond this, the University constantly expands its network of international cooperations. At present, there are approximately 30 partnerships with universities worldwide.

The Wewerka Pavillon is the University's showroom. Above: an installation by Sujin Do in 2013.

Excursions take the students to all parts of the world. Below: the "Fylmklasse" in Morocco.



# STUDY PROGRAMME

Our study programme rests on three principal pillars:

## I. ARTISTIC CLASSES

The artistic classes form the core study in all our study programmes. Students of art education therefore receive the same artistic training as Fine Art students. Putting the individual artistic work process at the centre is the distinctive feature of an art academy and defines the work climate at the University. Studio work begins for first year students in the so-called orientation phase. After successful completion, it will be continued in the third semester in the artistic classes. Each of these studio communities may consist of 15–35 students from all terms and will work under the guiding supervision of internationally renowned artists. The goal of this form of study is the development of an autonomous artistic work process, the preparation for artistic or art-related professions and the formation of a full-fledged artistic personality.



**Presentation of works of a painting class during Rundgang 2014.**

**Presentation of a collaborative work of a sculpture class during Rundgang 2017.**

## II. ART-RELATED ACADEMIC STUDIES

Corresponding to the choice of study programme and each student's individual goals, studio work is complemented by art-related academic studies. Among these are art history, philosophy of art, media and culture studies and art education. Focusing on aesthetic education, the study of art didactics or art pedagogy, and the communication of art opens up pathways to respective professional fields.

## III. WORKSHOPS

Assisted by our highly qualified and experienced workshop staff, students will both learn specific technical skills and gain quintessential experience in dealing appropriately with the specific properties of materials and their use as aesthetic media. Our artistic-technical staff in charge of the workshops for Sculptural Techniques (wood, mould making, plastics, metals), Ceramics, Silkscreen and Digital Printing, Painting, Printmaking, Photography, Digital Art, and Film/Video/New Media, not only offer workshop courses but also provide individual counselling and support in the realisation of artworks.

Our core course offers are flanked by varying honorary and guest professorships as well as a variety of additional teaching appointments.

**“Art and Academia in Conversation”:**  
Students present their artworks for discussion to art scholars and art critics as well as fellow students.

A workshop class on painting techniques.



# STUDY PROGRAMMES

## FINE ART

**Degree: Akademiefrief (equivalent of a German Diplom degree, or MFA)**

**Standard period of study: 10 semesters**

The course of study is divided in:

- » Grundstudium (basic studies): studio-based studies in the orientation phase (2 semesters)
- » Hauptstudium (main studies): studio-based studies in an artist class (8 semesters)

Besides studio-based fine art studies and workshop courses, courses in Art History and art-related academic studies, such as Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art, need to be completed.

The freedom of the arts is a fundamental value enshrined in the German constitution. The study of Fine Arts belongs to the most liberal and autonomous study programmes one can choose to enrol for. Our study model based on the principle of studio classes under the supervision of internationally renowned artists is recognised worldwide and highly successful. It is this amount of personal freedom precisely that makes this course of study particularly demanding and poses a considerable challenge for each student to rise to. The final degree (Akademiefrief) does not provide automatic access to a particular profession. It is for this reason that resourcefulness and independence, a high degree of motivation, as well as being prepared to put in a lot of work are crucial conditions for success in this study programme.

The study of Fine Art does not require students to commit themselves to one specific artistic medium (e.g., painting, sculpture). The choice of medium remains free throughout the studies.

**Presentation of a sculpture class during Rundgang 2014.**



## TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The University of Fine Arts offers art teacher trainings for the three German school forms:

- » Gymnasien und Gesamtschulen  
(secondary schools; also as a single-subject course)
- » Haupt-, Real-, Sekundar- und Gesamtschulen (middle schools)
- » Grundschulen (primary schools)

These programmes are divided into the two consecutive degrees:

- » **Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Education (6 semesters)**
- » **Master of Education (4 semesters)**

which each contain the following modules:

- » studio-based art studies
- » art history and general art studies
- » art theory and art didactics

Innovative teacher training has a prominent role at the University of Fine Arts. During the Bologna reform process, the University successfully defended the importance of art practice in the training of art teachers. In this process, new study programmes were designed, which were accredited in 2012 and deemed “exemplary” by both the evaluating commission and the competent ministry. By sharing in the studio experience with the Fine Arts students, the art educators in training receive a complete artistic education and thereby exceptionally apposite qualifications for their profession.

Among other things, art pedagogical research at the University systematically concerns itself with questions of job-relevance in the education of art teachers. According to our rationale, the practical artistic experience of the art educator forms an invaluable potential also for the creation of lesson plans and the initiation of aesthetic formation processes in children and adolescents.

Students have ample opportunity to test their knowledge in practice at the regional schools the University cooperates with.

The teacher training programmes are conducted in cooperation with the University of Münster (WWU), which offers the obligatory course in Educational Sciences and possibly another school subject or courses in specific learning fields.

## PH.D / DOCTORATE

The University of Fine Arts Münster has the right to award doctorates for the academic subjects represented by full-time professorships (see above). Our Ph.D programme is characterised by its intimate connection with the University’s artistic and cultural activities in both research and tuition.

**Workshop during a conference on art didactics.**



## HOW TO APPLY

Artistic aptitude is prerequisite for admission to any of our study pathways. This aptitude will be assessed on the strength of a portfolio of your own artistic work you are required to submit. There will be no interviews or any other practical suitability test.

For the teacher training programmes, general university entrance qualifications, such as the German Abitur, are additionally required. Such qualifications are not needed if you wish to apply for the Fine Arts programme. In this case, your portfolio of works will be inspected for exceptional artistic aptitude.

### WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?

The complete application information can be downloaded under [www.kunstakademie-muenster.de/bewerbung](http://www.kunstakademie-muenster.de/bewerbung)

### WHEN CAN I APPLY?

2 to 10 April each year. For submission times please refer to our homepage.

### SENDING YOUR APPLICATION BY POST

You can also send your application by mail or other courier or parcel services. Please make sure to post your application in time so that we receive it within the period stipulated above.

### ADDRESS (FOR SUBMISSION BY POST OR IN PERSON):

Kunstakademie Münster  
Studierendenservice  
Leonardo-Campus 2  
48149 Münster

### ANY QUESTIONS?

Our student service team (STUDIERENDENSERVICE) is happy to assist you with any questions you may have regarding study programmes and application.

Tel. +49 251 8361206

[studienbuero@kunstakademie-muenster.de](mailto:studienbuero@kunstakademie-muenster.de)


Room 206, 2nd floor

Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9:30–11:30 a.m.

**Artist Run Space: One of the 13 projects with which our students participated in Emscherkunst 2016.**







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Class of Suchan Kinoshita during  
Rundgang 2015.  
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