

Cross-Disciplinary Strategies

Applied Studies in Art, Science, Philosophy, and Global Challenges

Curriculum

Bachelor Programme

Duration: 8 Semesters

Programme Number: 033 700

This is the English translation of the original German version. Only the latter is legally binding.

Version: Winter Semester 2019/20

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna
on 17 May 2019.

§ 1. Objectives and principles

The bachelor degree programme „Cross-Disciplinary Strategies. Applied Studies in Art, Science, Philosophy, and Global Challenges“ conveys a broad spectrum of artistic and scientific skills, strategies and principles of artistic and scientific praxis, linked with the aspiration to promote a critical approach, cooperation skills and goal-oriented learning that will reach beyond individual areas of knowledge.

This programme’s approach represents an answer to transformation processes that our globalized societies face today. To enable students to deal with complex and global dynamics as well as differing realities, courses designed to give an overview offer interdisciplinary knowledge and provide insights into strategies and methods from a number of areas of knowledge. Basic principles of art, philosophy, natural sciences, engineering and the humanities are an integral part of the curriculum in order to familiarize students with various perspectives and epistemologies. In addition, basic knowledge regarding the challenges of an increasing fusion of man and machine will be imparted, with particular focus on the growing automation that is due to the refinement of artificial intelligence and progress in the area of genome editing.

The programme aims at developing future-oriented work methods and the conveyance of new strategies designed to exceed ordinary educational concepts, thus opposing the growing specialization and fragmentation of knowledge. This approach represents a contribution to shaping the future of our societies – fragile social fabrics in a quickly changing world that are confronted with global challenges to an unprecedented extent are to be addressed: demographic change, migration, the protection of human rights, social injustices and poverty, climate change, or redefining human work in the era of robotics and digitalization.

Systematic and interdisciplinary courses provide students with insights into current technological developments, into new economies, as well as into political discourses of contemporary societies. The programme is supplemented by reflections accompanying the course of studies. Artistic strategies such as abstraction, ambiguity, alienation, destruction or performativity, as well as practical knowledge are significant learning objectives and basic work methods alike. These are enhanced through forms of complementary and collaborative teaching. The architecture of the study programme offers a learning environment that combines theory and practice. The range of options is enhanced by the various studios and workshops of the Angewandte with their broad spectrum of media and materials.

In order to educate professionals who are able to navigate in a globalized and interconnected world and who possess the qualifications to handle complex dynamics, the study programme offers new teaching and learning methods and action strategies. These promote collaboration and teamwork and enable the planning, creation, implementation, analysis and inspired leading of dynamic projects – an important contribution to providing critical and well thought out foundations for meaningful and sustainable decision processes.

§ 2. Legal basis, scope, and academic degree

(1) Pursuant to §54 para.1 subpara.11 of the Austrian Universities Act (UG), the bachelor degree programme „Cross-Disciplinary Strategies. Applied Studies in Art, Science, Philosophy, and Global Challenges“ is assigned to the group of Interdisciplinary Studies. As the programme is located at a university of arts, evidence of artistic aptitude – within the meaning of §4 of this curriculum and in the framework of an entrance examination pursuant to §76 (UG) – is a prerequisite for admission to the study programme.

(2) In view of the particular requirements on content and structure to gain occupational competence, the programme is composed of 240 ECTS credits. This represents a minimum duration of studies of eight semesters. Upon successful completion of the programme, and pursuant to §51 para.2 subpara.10 (UG), the academic title of „Bachelor of Arts“, abbreviated to „BA“, is awarded.

§ 3. Qualification profile

Graduates employ artistic skills, strategies and principles of artistic praxis and experience, plus broad knowledge regarding the basic principles of research from the areas of engineering, natural sciences, humanities and social sciences to identify, develop and bring about systematic and innovative approaches for the achievement of sustainable transformation and design processes. Graduates gain an understanding for the complex coherences of

our globalized and tightly interwoven societies and are able to take a critical stance towards the multiple challenges of our time.

Graduates are to pass through awareness-raising and qualification processes that will enable them:

to identify and address relevant issues and strategies for change processes beyond the boundaries of disciplines

to systemize and communicate (knowledge transfer) the approaches developed, and to implement them according to the requirements of the respective context

to instruct and guide interdisciplinary work teams that are characterized by diversity and heterogeneity.

Due to the architecture of the study programme students have at their command a number of artistic skills and strategies, as well as interdisciplinary knowledge in respect of the basic principles of highly diverse knowledge areas, all of which facilitates a certain foresight and at the same time provides a high adaptability to a wide range of disciplines. Graduates will be enabled to lead, in a stimulating and cooperative way, decision processes and strategic developments in complex matters such as politics, administration and new economic systems of the 21st century. They are qualified for fields of work in both the public and the private sector, e.g. at universities and external research facilities where complex research subjects require interdisciplinary research teams. They also qualify for research departments and senior positions in the strategy development of commercial enterprises that design complex strategies for change processes and that have a need for ongoing renewal and change due to their organizational and content-wise orientation.

Further fields of work are available in the context of public administration bodies of the country, the federal states and larger urban spaces in respect of planning and decision-making processes of complex undertakings, plus in connection with political decision makers and panels that deal with diverging interests and complex tasks of multiple and far-reaching consequences. Opportunities can also be found in multinational institutions (e.g. the EU, UNO, OECD, UNESCO, OPEC), as well as in think tanks and enterprises that advise business and politics regarding development scenarios and potential courses of action, plus in lobbies that are faced with a dramatic change in working and producing. Another field of work exists in cultural institutions that face a conflict of orientation between art, aesthetics, public sphere, politics and economic parameters, but offer suitable spaces to voice and make known to a wider public the global challenges confronting our societies today.

§ 4. Admission

(1) Within the framework of an entrance examination, the examination committee aims to establish the presence of a particular visual and linguistic aptitude, combined with an aptitude for combinatory intelligence.

(2) The entrance examination is arranged in two parts, it consists of a short biography with a letter of motivation, and a personal interview. The positive evaluation of part one is the prerequisite for participation in part two.

1. Short biography and motivation to study (to be submitted in writing):

In the short biography applicants are to present a written summary of their qualifications and main interests.

In the motivational letter applicants are to outline their expectations of the study programme and how they would apply the skills and competencies gained in this course of studies.

2. Interview

Starting with a short oral presentation of the motivational letter submitted, the applicant will discuss with the examination committee her/his personal qualifications and main interests and how these align with the study programme objectives. Based on the outcome, the aptitude for interdisciplinary, scientific-artistic work in a critical-reflective manner will be evaluated.

§ 5. Programme structure

The course of studies comprises 240 ECTS – this equals a minimum duration of study of 8 semesters – and is set up in three phases: introduction, intensification and application, conclusion.

1. Introduction phase

The introduction phase comprises 60 ECTS and aims at securing the knowledge base that is to be broadened and applied during the following semesters. It covers the content-related basics of the programme's various fields of study (cf. §6), the global challenges, and methods and operating principles essential for the study course. The learning achievements are scrutinized and documented in ongoing programme-related reflection.

2. Phase of intensification and application (150 ECTS)

2.1. Teaching in the study areas of Artistic Strategies, Science and Technology, Economics and Politics follows a different theme each semester or academic year and is aligned with the Global Challenges.

2.2. Cross-disciplinary links:

in the Cross-Disciplinary Capabilities course, headed by persons experienced in transdisciplinary work, students apply methods for creating cross-disciplinary links and – partly in conjunction with specialist representatives – explore linking potentials in project work. Students' work results are brought about in annual projects and are evaluated in semester examinations. Projects are to touch on the contents of at least two study areas. During the winter semester, topics of the annual projects are either suggested by the students or can be specified by the teaching staff.

The experiences made are to be documented in the study course portfolio (programme-related reflection) and form the basis for the concluding bachelor thesis.

3. Concluding phase (30 ECTS)

In the concluding phase the insights that have been developed are put together and reflected upon in a bachelor thesis.

§ 6. Study areas

The subjects relevant to the study course are structured in the following areas of study:

(1) Artistic strategies and art perception

artistic procedures such as abstraction, ambiguity, alienation, plus media theory, art and knowledge transfer, etc., from an artistic and theoretic point of view

(2) Science and technology

basics of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, bioinformatics/ genome editing/ programming, neurosciences, models and visualisations, etc., and the societal contextualisation thereof

(3) Philosophy

epistemology, history and theory of science, methodology and political theory

(4) Global Challenges

inequalities and poverty, climate change, demographic change, redefining human work in the era of robotics and digitalization, human rights, international organizations, etc.

(5) Communication and cooperation strategies

forms of cooperation, communication, media, marketing, group dynamics, project management

(6) Economics and politics

basics of economic and political strategies, about finance systems, social distribution, political geographies, etc.

(7) Working base in each of the following areas: statistics, working academically, and research.

§ 7. Courses

(1) During the programme, courses are on offer from all study areas. In addition, there are the following specific teaching formats:

a) orientation tutorial: introduction to the resources and workshops/studios at the university

b) reflections accompanying the study course: within the framework of the programme-related reflection each student is to keep a studies portfolio, in which the competencies experienced during the programme are gathered in writing and/or visually for the purpose of documentation, analysis, and critical reflection in discussion groups arranged by the programme coordinator.

c) Cross-Disciplinary Capabilities: in the course of Cross-Disciplinary Capabilities students are supported by experts to apply their knowledge in interdisciplinary ways and means.

(2) Free Electives: To the extent of 10 ECTS students may freely select scheduled courses available at either this university or any other national / international university (depending on the admission requirements at these institutions).

(3) Internships will be recognized pursuant to §78 para.3 and 4 (UG). In addition, recognition of an internship of at least 150 working hours at a subject-related external facility based in an artistic or other field may be granted once during the whole study programme for a course from CDC.

(4) As part of Artistic Strategies, a one-off intensification during the programme is possible as a guest of one of the art classes at the Angewandte (Art Studio Practise) to the extent of 6 ECTS.

(5) It is within the scope of the courses to offer subject-relevant excursions.

(6) Lectures may partly be offered as digital formats. In such cases the digital teaching must be accompanied by a discursive teaching format.

§ 8. Exam regulations

(1) The method of ascertaining successful completion of the individual study modules is to be announced by the heads of the modules in writing, at the same time as the lectures/courses available, or at the beginning of the semester at the latest.

(2) The academic accomplishment in examinations or courses with immanent examinations is to be evaluated on use of a three-tier scale consisting of „mit Auszeichnung bestanden“ (passed with distinction), „bestanden“ (pass) or „nicht bestanden“ (fail).

(3) The academic accomplishment in the orientation tutorials and programme-related reflection is to be evaluated pursuant to §73 para.1, 3rd sentence (UG). Positive evaluations are „mit Erfolg teilgenommen“ (successfully completed /pass), negative are „ohne Erfolg teilgenommen“ (unsuccessfully completed /fail).

(4) Bachelor Thesis

4.1. The topic of the bachelor thesis is to be taken from the course contents of the curriculum and the thesis content must represent the interdisciplinary character of the programme.

4.2. If a student applies for a supervising tutor as support when working on the bachelor thesis, the vice-rector for academic affairs is to allocate one or more teaching staff members who are suitably qualified and have agreed to fulfil this function. Prerequisite is the student's written submission of a concept for the bachelor thesis that includes a schedule of time and content. The concept is to be submitted at least three months prior to the beginning of the semester in which the student plans to produce the bachelor thesis.

4.3. Prerequisite for admission to the bachelor thesis is the evidence that all exams and course assessments have been successfully completed.

4.4. Following a public presentation to an examination committee, of which the supervising tutor(s) will be part, the academic accomplishment of the bachelor thesis is to be evaluated on use of a three-tier scale consisting of „ mit Auszeichnung bestanden“ (passed with distinction), „bestanden“ (pass) or „nicht bestanden“ (fail).

4.5. The bachelor programme ends with the positive evaluation of the bachelor thesis (approbation). This decision is made by the committee appointed by the rectorate member in charge.

§ 9. Language of the programme

The programme is taught in English. Students submit their written works in English language.

§ 10. Organizational conditions (part of the university statute)

1. For organizational and content-wise coordination, the rectorate will appoint a programme advisory board and a programme coordinator.

2. For appointment of a programme coordinator, the programme advisory board will recommend to the rectorate a person with interdisciplinary competences and interests and who graduated from a university.

The programme coordinator is in charge of

2.1. organizing the entrance examinations

2.2. securing the operational running of the study programme based on the curriculum and the decisions of the programme advisory board

2.3. supporting the programme advisory board in preparing and submitting recommendations to the rectorate regarding the employment of teaching staff

2.4. heading the teaching course of Programme-related Reflection as set out in the curriculum, as well as participating in the workshop „Cross-Disciplinary Capabilities“.

3. The programme advisory board consists of nine voting members and is composed in equal parts of the following persons:

- representatives from the group of university professors, as nominated by those university professors who have a seat in the senate
- representatives from the group of university lecturers, plus scientific and artistic staff, as nominated by the members of this group who have a seat in the senate
- representatives of the students, as nominated by the Students' Union (hufak).

A representative of the Working Group on Equal Treatment Issues is a programme advisory board member with a consulting vote.

3.1. The term of office for the members of the programme advisory board amounts to three years.

For this period the programme advisory board elects a chairperson from among its members.

3.2. The programme coordinator is a programme advisory board member with a consulting vote.

3.3. The programme advisory board develops the annual themes (cf. §5.2.) and decides through simple majority on recommendations to the rectorate regarding the employment or assignment of teaching staff required to implement the curriculum.

4. Experts outside the university who are hired for teaching requirements of the curriculum are granted teaching authorization that covers the contents of their teaching responsibility. They may be titled „Visiting Professor“ or „Visiting Lecturer“ depending on the recommendation of the programme advisory board.

§ 11. Study Route

1. Basics Phase (60 ECTS)	ECTS
Artistic Strategies and Art Perception	10
Science and Technology	10
Philosophy	8
Global Challenges	6
Communication and Cooperation Strategies	6
Economics and Politics	4
Working Base, div. subjects (statistics 6 ECTS, basics of working academically 2 ECTS)	8
Orientation Tutorial	2
Programme-related Reflection	2
Free Electives	4

2. Intensification / Application Phase (150 ECTS)	ECTS
Artistic Strategies and Art Perception	30
Science and Technology	40
Philosophy	15
Economics and Politics	20
Cross- Disciplinary Capabilities	30
Programme-related Reflection	5
Free Electives	10
<hr/>	
3. Bachelor Phase (30 ECTS)	ECTS
Bachelor Thesis	26
Programme-related Reflection	4